

**STRIBLING, THOMAS SIGISMUND
(1881-1965)
PAPERS, ADDITION 4, 1906-1978
(Tennessee Historical Society Collection)**

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Accession Number: THS 868
Date Completed: 5/01/1997
Location: (THS) VI-F-1
Microfilm Accession Number: 1530

INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the Thomas Sigismund Stribling Papers, Addition 4, which augments three previously processed collections of the papers of T. S. Stribling, located in the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Included in this small collection is correspondence, music lesson plans and lecture notes, photographs, printed material, programs and several miscellaneous items.

The collection was donated by Amelia Hughes and were contained in three large cardboard boxes. The materials were arranged in no specific order. Researchers seeking more information on the Stribling's career should consult the Tennessee Historical Society Collection finding aids numbered 467, 623, 683, and 727. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Thomas Sigismund Stribling Papers and additions, may be made for scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Thomas Sigismund Stribling Papers, Addition 4, containing 1.5 cubic feet and six volumes, span the period 1906 through 1978. The collection consists primarily of material related to LouElla Stribling, wife of Thomas S. Stribling. Specifically, the majority of the collection concerns Mrs. Stribling's career as a music teacher in the Florida schools. Included in the collection is correspondence, lesson plans, lists, minutes, lecture notes, notes from an unidentified novel, photographs, printed materials, programs and several miscellaneous items.

The majority of the correspondence is school related, and is composed of letters from both students and instructors. This correspondence dates from the late 1930s and early 1940s, while the Stribling's were residing in Jackson County, Florida. There are also several letters from Stribling's English publisher, William Heinemann and from his German translator, Annie Farchy. Four letters in the collection continue the dealings between the African-American leader, George Edmund Haynes and Stribling. There are few letters of personal or family interest in the collection. One letter, undated, is from Stribling to his wife and another chronicles Mrs. Stribling's early years as a student teacher.

The bulk of the collection is composed of lecture notes and miscellaneous note cards. These notes fall into two categories; one concerning music classes taken by LouElla Stribling, as well as notes she made for the music classes in which she taught, and secondly, a large number of note cards, probably produced by Stribling, for an unidentified novel. All note cards are arranged in the collection as they appear in the notebooks, or as in the case of Stribling's notes, in a note card box. As none of the notebooks were labeled precise identification is difficult. Also included are music lesson plans used by Mrs. Stribling in her classes. Mrs. Stribling was the only music teacher in the county and the lesson plans from the different schools reflect this.

The photographs in the collection reflect Stribling's travels in the American west and in the Latin American countries. Included are some early photographs of the area around Golden, Colorado, as well as Denver, Colorado. Of particular interest are the photographs of San Francisco's Chinatown. Several postcards relating to Tennessee were removed from the collection and added to the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Tennessee Postcard Collection.

In addition, there are seven volumes of receipt books dealing with the Hughes Lumber Company of Clifton, Tennessee. The volumes represent bank deposits, lumber orders and payroll lists. Although the volumes are not related to Stribling, the Hughes family, who operated the lumber mill, is related to LouElla Stribling.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Sigismund Stribling

- 1881** March 4, born in Clifton, Tennessee, the son of Christopher Columbus and Amelia (Waits) Stribling
- 1890** Completed primary education at Clifton Masonic Academy
- 1898** Enrolled in Southern Normal School, Huntingdon, Tennessee
- 1900** Employed as editor of *Clifton News*
- 1902-1903** Instructor of mathematics and gymnastics at Tuscaloosa High School, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- 1904-1905** Attended the University of Alabama School of Law
- 1905-1907** Practiced law as partner in the law office of Emmett O'Neal in Florence, Alabama
- 1907-1908** Employed as clerk at the *Taylor-Trotwood Magazine* in Nashville, Tennessee; contributes two stories to magazine during employment
- 1908** Departed *Taylor-Trotwood Magazine* for New Orleans; created Sunday school stories at rate of seven per day
- 1908-1916** Traveled to Cuba, Europe and South America; writes adventure stories for several U. S. magazines
- 1917** Employed as journalist for *Chattanooga News*
- 1918** Stenographer for the Aviation Bureau in Washington, D.C.
- 1919** First novel completed, *The Cruise of the Dry Dock*
- 1921** Toured Venezuela and other countries of South America
- 1922** *Birthright* published
- 1923** *Fombombo* published

Biographical Sketch, continued:

- 1924** *Red Sand* published; *Birthright* produced as silent film by Micheaux
- 1926** *Teeftallow* published
- 1928** Collaborated with producer, David Wallace on *Rope*, a stage dramatization of the novel, *Teeftallow*; *Bright Metal* and *East Is East* published
- 1929** *Strange Moon* and *Clues of the Caribbees* published
- 1930** September 3, married LouElla (Kloss), instructor of piano and violin
- 1931** *The Forge* published (first novel in Stribling's trilogy of the South)
- 1932** *The Store* published (second novel in Stribling's trilogy of the South)
- 1933** Awarded Pulitzer Prize for *The Store*
- 1934** *Unfinished Cathedral* published (third novel in Stribling's trilogy of the South)
- 1935** *Sound Wagon* published; served as instructor in the Extension Division of Columbia University
- 1938** *These Bars of Flesh* published
- 1941** Commences work on autobiography
- 1943** Toured Mexico; contributed mystery stories to various magazines
- 1944-1959** Resided in Florida
- 1959-1965** Returned to Clifton, Tennessee
- 1965** July 8, died in Florence, Alabama, and interred in the Clifton Cemetery, Clifton, Tennessee

Organizations

London Book Society

Source: T. S. (Thomas Sigismund) Stribling Papers

CONTAINER LIST

FOLDER

DESCRIPTION

Box Number 1

1. Clippings–Miscellaneous
2. Correspondence–Adams-Evans, 1918-1978
3. Correspondence–Farchy-Hunt, 1918-1978
4. Correspondence–Jatchy-Latham, 1918-1978
5. Correspondence–Loveland-Skipper, 1918-1978
6. Correspondence–Stribling, LouElla, 1918-1978
7. Correspondence–Stribling, Thomas S.-Wright, 1918-1978
8. Lesson Plans–Jackson County, Florida Schools, 1937-38
9. Lesson Plans–Jackson County, Florida Schools, Music Program 1938
10. Lesson Plans–Lakewood School District, 1929
11. Lesson Plans–Stribling, LouElla, 1940
12. Lesson Plans–Stribling, LouElla, 1941
13. Lesson Plans–Tampa City Schools, 1930-31
14. Lists–Jackson County, Florida Teachers, 1937-38
15. Minutes–Jackson County, Florida Teacher’s Meeting, 1938
16. Minutes– “State of Alabama Sacred Harp Singing Convention”, 1939
17. Notes–Lecture Notes (1)
18. Notes–Lecture Notes (2)
19. Notes–Lecture Notes (3)
20. Notes–Lecture Notes (4)
21. Notes–Lecture Notes (5)
22. Notes–Lecture Notes (6)

Box Number 2

1. Notes–Lecture Notes (7)
2. Notes–Lecture Notes (8)
3. Notes–Lecture Notes (9)
4. Notes–Lecture Notes (10)
5. Notes–Lecture Notes (11)
6. Notes–Lecture Notes (12)
7. Notes–Lecture Notes (13)
8. Notes–Lecture Notes, Stribling, LouElla
9. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (1)
10. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (2)
11. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (3)
12. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (4)
13. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (5)
14. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (6)
15. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (7)

Container List, continued:

<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
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Box Number 2 (continued):

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| 16. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (8) | |
| 17. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (9) | |
| 18. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (10) | |
| 19. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (11) | |
| 20. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (12) | |
| 21. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (13) | |
| 22. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (14) | |

Box Number 3

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| 1. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (15) | |
| 2. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (16) | |
| 3. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (17) | |
| 4. Notes–Stribling, Thomas S. (18) | |
| 5. Notes–Unidentified | |
| 6. Photographs–Basalo-Coyotes | |
| 7. Photographs–D.M. Hitchcock-Entrance | |
| 8. Photographs–First-Golden | |
| 9. Photographs–Halstead-Mormon | |
| 10. Photographs–North-Pearl | |
| 11. Photographs–Pike’s Peak-San Francisco | |
| 12. Photographs–Saucilito | |
| 13. Photographs–Sculptor-Tugboat | |
| 14. Photograph–Unidentified | |
| 15. Printed Materials– “ <i>Alliance Radio Tour</i> ”, 1939 | |
| 16. Printed Material– “ <i>Creative Music</i> ”, P. K. Yonge Laboratory School | |
| 17. Printed Material– “ <i>Florida State Music Teacher’s Association</i> ”, 1946 | |
| 18. Printed Materials– “ <i>Leadership Training Institutes in Rural Recreation</i> ” | |
| 19. Programs–Jackson County, Florida Song Festival, 1938 | |
| 20. Programs–Music Courses, Columbia University, 1929 | |
| 21. Programs–Music programs, miscellaneous | |
| 22. Report– “ <i>Lee County Florida Public School Music Program</i> ” | |

MISCELLANEOUS VOLUMES

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| 1. Bank Deposits, People’s Bank, 1942 | |
| 2. Bank Deposits, People’s Bank, 1947 | |
| 3. Bank Deposits, People’s Bank, 1948 | |
| 4. Hughes’ Lumber Company, Business Records, 1946 | |
| 5. Hughes’ Lumber Company Business Records, 1952 | |
| 6. Payroll Books, 1947 | |

7. Payroll Books, undated